



THIRD QUARTER REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
01/07/2014-30/09/2014

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RUTSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



President's Report



James
Michelmore

It's been a quarter of steady improvement for the Student Union between July and September this year. We had a number of new students join our volunteer program off the back of second semester orientation events with a total of over 2,200 hours of volunteering completed in the three month period. Membership also continues to climb to our annual target, helped along by the reintroduction of a university-wide mail-out which will

continue in 2015. Six new student clubs were also welcomed to RUSU this quarter, with eight more working to affiliate before the end of 2014. Financially, the organisation is on track with the annual budget heading in to the final quarter of 2014 with a 2015 funding arrangement almost finalised.

This quarter saw the annual celebration of democracy at RMIT that is the RUSU elections. 75 candidates from 3 distinct teams vied for the support of their peers in a hotly contested election. A notable increase in student engagement and voter turnout was witnessed this year, particularly at the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses. Increased engagement at these outer campuses demonstrates the success of specific programs and initiatives aimed at improving campus life for these students. All told, almost 3,500 students participated in the week long elections, re-affirming the student union's authority and mandate for representing the students of RMIT in 2015.

Our third quarter also played host to a number of exciting events including a Carnivale Party, a postgrad ball, the inaugural RUSU pub crawl, a terrarium workshop, a volunteer camp and more. September also brought World Week, a celebration of RMIT's diverse multicultural population across all Melbourne campuses. Highlights of this year's festival included the showcasing of multicultural student clubs, movie screenings, an international beers tent, a world party, and the celebration of the moon cake festival.

Another notable achievement of this quarter was the huge success of RUSU's "Fly The Flag" campaign, with the Vice-Chancellor finally agreeing to arrange for the installation of additional flag poles which will see both the Australian Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag flown at the entrances to all three Melbourne campuses from 2015. Other campaign achievements include in principle support from RMIT to provide more inclusive food offerings in future campus outlets, including the particular provision of halal and kosher options.

Students are growing more concerned by the government's proposed changes to higher education fees and HECS loan interest. The growing threat of a deregulated market continues to be the focus of national campaigns are expected to ramp up toward the end of the year as the recommendations come back from the Senate committee. The Student Union continues to monitor the situation in close consultation with the National Union of Students and the Council of Postgraduate Associations. In the mean time, students are being encouraged to participate in many of the various campaigns against fee deregulation.

As we head in to the last few months of the year, plans are already in place for a number of great programs to round out the semester, including a Stress Less Week to assist students dealing with final assessments and examinations, as well as RUSU's traditional end of exams party and other festivities. Plans are also underway for the induction and training of the new Student Union Council, with a fantastic team of enthusiastic and engaged students ready to take the reigns and lead RUSU in to 2015.

James Michelmore
President
RMIT University Student Union

Activities and Events

Standout Events

Carnivale Party, July 24th

We welcomed students back after the mid year break with a Carnivale themed party at the La Di Da nightclub on King St. This event was held in conjunction with the Victoria University Student Union to take advantage of a similar academic calendar. Approximately 600 attendees joined in the revelry

World Week Party August 14th

This event was held to commemorate the end of a successful World Week. We returned to the Key Club and saw an attendance of around 500.

Winter Wonderland August 30th

For the first time in many years, RUSU held a formal cocktail event. The venue was Bobby McGee's on Exhibition St and saw a turnout of around 200.

Pub Crawl September 18th

Continuing with trying new events, we held our first union pub crawl in many years. Demand was high for places with the 100 person allocation being exhausted over a week out from the event. Attendees were well behaved and the party went on til the wee small hours.

Regular Events

Chill n' Grill – Market Days

RUSU has continued with the practice of previous years of holding fortnightly market days on Bowen Street to coincide with the Wednesday Chill n' Grills. Four merchants attend each week and contribute to a vibrant sense of community amongst the student body.

RUSU Membership

- » 677 students became RUSU financial members this quarter, bringing the total paid membership to 3573.



Volunteers

RUSU Volunteers started semester 2 with a bang, with our purple people amassing almost 2300 hours of volunteer work this third quarter!

Semester 2 got off to a flying start with over 230 RMIT students registering their interest in RUSU's LEAD-accredited Volunteer Program between July 1 and September 31. Of those, 132 attended and successfully completed their inductions and began volunteering in one or more the following areas: Activities & Events, Realfoods Café, Student Rights, Administration and Compass.

Seven induction sessions took place across the City, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses and several Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Safety Handler training sessions were offered in the City campus.

RUSU's "purple people" continued helping out at all of RUSU's major events, at all weekly events across the RMIT campuses, in the Realfoods Café, on appeal hearing panels, every lunchtime at the RUSU city front counter, at RUSU's English Conversation classes, lending an attentive ear at Compass and attending or leading at RUSU's sophomore Volunteer Camp!

RUSU Volunteers Professional Development

Third Quarter 2014

Recruitment	Jul-Sep	Year to date
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during third quarter	239	470
Training	Completions	
Volunteers inducted	132	263
Volunteers trained in Food Handling Level 1	82	153
Volunteers trained in RSA	72	143
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid	-	20
Realfoods Cafe onsite kitchen & operations training	44	93
Volunteers trained in Community First Aid	-	20
Volunteers trained in manual handling	10	10

2280 Volunteer Hours Worked this Quarter

At the end of the second quarter, RUSU volunteers had contributed nearly 4300 working hours to RUSU services thus far this year.

Volunteer Camp

RUSU's second-ever Volunteer Camp took place in Log Cabin Camp in Creswick from Friday August 15 to Sunday August 17. The camp was led by staff and 5 experienced RUSU volunteers (otherwise known as the "Purple People Leaders"), with RUSU providing accommodation, food, transport and various activities for over 50 students from across RUSU's volunteer departments. Highlights included a highly-competitive trivia night, a professionally-facilitated team-building workshop and lots of outdoor activities including flying fox and the giant swing.

Across the Campuses

City

The RUSU Information Counter (Building 8, Level 3, Room 1) has been a very important 'go to' information and contact point for all RMIT Students. July was a very busy month, with many new students signing up for RUSU memberships to kick start their Semester 2. Both July and August were also peak months for student rights drop-ins, queries, and appointments.

The Front Office volunteer program has been very successful, with 16 volunteers staffing the office during the peak periods of the day. This program provides our volunteers with experience in administration and student-focused customer service. Six RMIT student casuals were also employed to assist the Front Office during peak periods of the quarter.

City Chill 'N' Grills

Chill & Grill, gets stronger every week! Chill and Grill is RUSU'S biggest & best weekly event during semester takes place on Bowen Street/Casey Plaza. Chill and Grill continues to run very efficiently feeding 1000 -1,500 students EVERY THURSDAY from 12-2pm with sausages, veggie burgers, fried onions, bread, salad & sauce. RUSU are continuing to be inclusive by serving certified halal beef sausages at our events.

Ten City campus 'Chill N Grill' events were held this Quarter, over those events we served approx. 12,500 students free lunch. Student DJ's such as Kon Lee, Sean Dunshea, Jordan Dagliesh & Alfred Ululelata performed to their fellow students. During week 4 Chill N grill hosted world week. This consisted of chill N grill volunteers cooking up different worldly food instead of the regular sausages. There were Halal beef souvlaki's with salads, dips, grilled vege options and free baklava. Volunteers dressed up to celebrate different cultures as well as turning the whole chill N grill area into a worldly festival. We hired large marquee's and extra infrastructure to make a big beer tent area where DJ Rhythm & spice from PBS was playing world beats. Week 5 of Chill N grill also saw a huge poster sale. RUSU clubs have been present weekly with tables and clubs marquee at Chill 'n' Grill so they can regularly promote their own activities. This was very successful and will continue in semester 2 and hopefully 2015.

At Chill N Grill, RUSU members were entitled to some free Brunswick bitter beer or apple head cider to help wash the snags and veggie burgers down as well as "free is better" bottles of water. We also have a very efficient team of 15+ volunteers who turn up weekly to carry out this huge event. They volunteer between the hours of 10am-3pm with infrastructure, cooking, serving, promotions, PA, cleaning etc. They are trained in RSA, food handling and manual handling. These volunteers are part of the RMIT LEAD accredited program and also receive other incentives and rewards for their loyal and hard work. RUSU SUC passed funding to purchase 3 brand new Hercules BBQ's for the City campus as the current ones are old and in ill repair.



Bundoora

Starving Students Day: Every Wednesday

Free Soup!

For the first 4 weeks of Semester 2, RUSU served up 170 litres of soup, with complimentary bread rolls, to students each week.

Weekly Barbecues

Every Wednesday, RUSU staff, student representatives and volunteers cook a free BBQ for students. In semester 2, RUSU's BBQ production stepped up a gear, cooking roughly 400 sausages, 200 veggie burgers and a small mountain of onions, with salad, sauce and bread.

This event is big at Bundoora, with up to 100 students waiting in line patiently before service even commences.

Weekly Lunch at Bundoora East

Semester 2 has seen the commencement of weekly lunches at Bundoora East, for the first time in a very long time. These lunches take place on a Tuesday, and have involved soup throughout Winter, and then BBQs as we have moved into Spring. Although the campus is relatively small in terms of student numbers, the events are really popular and provide a great means through which students can get together and enjoy some lunch and a can of cider.

Building 204 Coffee break

The free tea and coffee service provided by RUSU in the kitchen of building 204 remains very popular. It is estimated that roughly 100-150 students use this service on a daily basis. Black tea, chai tea, chamomile tea, green tea, coffee and milo are provided free for students. The students take care of the kitchen and regularly clean it.

Building 204 Information Counter

The number of student rights inquiries that are presented at the Information Counter in Building 204 is the most notable change across 2014, and this trend has continued in the third quarter of the year. Up to 10 students per day seek student rights advice from the front counter, which often leads to appointments with the Bundoora Student Rights Officer.

'Free Breakfast'

» Free Breakfast program expands to 2 locations

RUSU provides a free breakfast at Bundoora West, and also Bundoora East, with whole fruit, fruit salad, toast, toasted sandwiches, muesli, tea and coffee, bagels, muffins and banana bread provided each week. At Bundoora West, 100 students are catered for per event, with many returning each week. Bundoora East is smaller, due to the smaller population of students, however is very well received.

This event is particularly popular - students actually rely on this event for a proper breakfast on Monday mornings. The range of food on offer is certainly appreciated, as is the opportunity to catch up with their classmates over a cup of coffee and some healthy food. At peak times (between 9:15-9:30am), 45 people have been counted around the breakfast table, which indicates the popularity of the event, and the importance of the event as a facilitator of social activity on campus.

Bundoora Queer Collective

A Bundoora Queer Collective has been established, with 5-10 students meeting each week for lunch (8 weeks in total). The convenor of the collective has been doing a fantastic job in organising and promoting the lunches, as well as arranging a banner for the Queer Lounge, and plants to be put in the lounge.

Bundoora Womyns Lunches

The Bundoora Representative organised 5 lunches in the Building 204 Womyns Room throughout this quarter, which were well attended. Students were served with free soup, as well as cupcakes and other treats and really added some life to the space.

Building 254 Launch - Bundoora East

This event took place on July 29, and was a great success with the lounge area completely packed with students and staff members, who enjoyed sandwiches, champagne and a purple cake. This was a fantastic way to introduce the space to the student body at Bundoora East.

Bundoora East Womyns Room

Confirming RUSU's commitment to Bundoora East, the Womyns Room re-opened in September and has become an immediate success. The space offers privacy, safety and a quiet area on campus for female students, while RUSU provides tea and coffee, a microwave and other amenities.

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Collaboration

Twice in this quarter, approximately 70 students, staff and high schools students from the AIME program came to Building 204 for a day. The high school students loved the space and came away with a great impression of RMIT. Staff, mentors and students from the program had a morning tea and also lunch in the courtyard to Building 204, and worked on group projects in the building and courtyard space as well. This collaboration was facilitated by the Bundoora Student Liaison Officer.

Association of Biomedical Science Students

This RUSU club arranged hoodies for club members, which were first ordered, then collected from the Building 204 information counter. 36 hoodies were sold in total.

RMIT Islamic Society

A BBQ was held on a wet and windy Bundoora day by the Islamic Society, with RUSU staff members Candice and Patrick valiantly assisting the club members to set up marquees in driving rain. Despite the weather, the event was very successful and attended by approximately 150 students.

Student Fundraiser

The Bundoora Student Liaison Officer helped a group of students to arrange a fundraiser BBQ. The event was fantastic, and raised over \$250.00.



WORKING HARD AT BUNDOORA WORLD WEEK

Brunswick

It has been a great few months at Brunswick. The Chill 'N' Grill is gathering pace and popularity amongst the students, who eagerly start lining up well before the food is even cooked!

So much is the success out of the chill 'N' grill barbecues that we have one signed up volunteer. A big thank you to Sam for all her help this semester.

Another, even more successful event is the weekly healthy breakfast. Muffins, fruit cups and fresh fruit are extremely popular. On average this quarter, the breakfasts have finished up within seven minutes of being presented to students.

Carlton

It has been an incredibly big quarter in Carlton. We have had played host to two huge trade employment fairs. The first had the 2 unions present, which covered the majority of Carlton VE students. Plumber, electricians and labourers all had the chance to talk to about industry specific jobs, the market for jobs and health and safety.

The second trade fare was held in conjunction with the weekly chill n grill on the city campus. The was a huge day and success. Over 10 different employee unions and industry bodies turned up to participate in the day. Of note, there was the CSIRO, WorkSafe and Engineers Australia. Many students lined the tables to talk with the different groups of employers. Some lucky students also received gift vouchers.



CITY CHILL 'N' GRILL VOLUNTEERS



BUNDOORA EAST LOUNGE LAUNCH PARTY

RUSU Departments

Environment

RMIT Terrarium Workshop

Greening RMIT is dedicated to engaging students on campus through green spaces, collective gardening, educational workshops and social events. Through these engaging activities, we hope to promote a more sustainable student life at RMIT.

The terrarium building workshop was held in the newly established 'Indoor Garden' at the RMIT Campus Store. External contractor Eva Reid – who has vast experience in building successful terrariums, hanging gardens and aquaponic systems – assisted in the workshop.

Students attended: 14

Worm Farming Presentation

The Greening RMIT student balcony garden (building 8, level 10) was established in early 2014. Alongside a range of vegetables and herbs that are being grown, there is also a worm farm that processes waste from the garden itself and a portion of waste from Realfoods Café.

The worm farm was established with the help of an organisation called Worm Lovers (wormlovers.com.au) and uses a new kind of worm farm technology called the 'Hungry Bin'. Alongside the establishment and maintenance of worm farms, Worm Lovers also offers educational presentations for people interested where Richard Thomas used the established worm farm to educate students.

Movie Screening: Growing Cities

As part of engaging with the student population we hosted a movie screening of the documentary 'Growing Cities'. This ties in to the Environment Collective goals of sharing ideas, campaigning for positive change and learning new skills.

Students attended: 25

Bike stand installation

Bike hubs have been installed in Building 80's bike cage (SAB) and Bundoora campus so students can use it to tighten up loose screws, or pump air in the tyres. The Environment Department has had a good response from students regarding this setup.

I just wanted to congratulate you on the initiative of placing the Bike Maintenance Tower in the Bike Cage in Building 80. I was somewhat surprised when I had a close look at it to see it was your initiative, I had assumed that this is something that the University would have provided as a part of the facility (and hopefully at other places around the city campus).

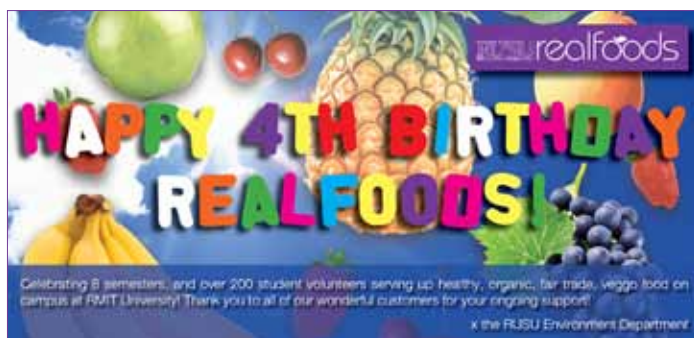
– Alistair Cranshaw Hart

Furniture Cage

The Furniture Collective was started in 2008 as an extension of the Environment Collective. It is dedicated to collecting discarded RMIT University Furniture and redistributing it FREE to students and staff. The Furniture Cage is open during Semester - every Wednesday from 3.30pm to 6pm, located behind the gym (Building 8, level 3 car park in the City campus) and can be accessed by turning right after passing the Sport and Recreation Office. Students and staff members drop by to look for some furniture the Cage has in stock for their homes, offices or lounge rooms. Recycling furniture helps in two ways:

- » Students gain access to useful items of furniture that they otherwise would not be able to afford;
- » Secondly, this service stops perfectly good furniture from rotting away in the landfill.

The Cage was closed during mid-semester holidays and resumed operating from 23rd July, 2014. We categorized items such as chairs, tables, cabinets, printers, and misc. Apart from the usual recycling of filing cabinets, chairs & desks, this semester computers were de-commissioned and the Cage gave away 6 computer screens, 2 CPUs, along with keyboards & mouse. Recycling old computers helps in a great way as it can be used productively by students. Bikes (bicycles) are also made available for students & staff if they wish to repair or use their parts. The Furniture Cage Co-ordinator, ensures the Cage's functioning every week and sending out pamphlets at cafes and libraries. Currently, the Co-ordinate hopes to divert as much useable furniture from the Post-grad lounge (that is closing down) and provide it free to RMIT students and staff, thereby benefiting both the environment and students.



RMIT TERRARIUM WORKSHOP



WORMFARM WORKSHOP

RUSU Realfoods

RUSU Realfoods is a student volunteer run social enterprise where you can vote with your taste buds for organic veggo fairly traded food.

Trading periods

- » Realfoods was open 11am–4pm, Monday to Friday during semester.
- » The shopfront re-opened for semester 2 trading on July 21.

Realfoods celebrates 4 years of operation

Happy Birthday to us! Realfoods has officially been operating for four years at RMIT University as of week 1 of semester 2, 2014.

We would like to give a big thanks to:

- » Over 200 amazing student volunteers who have helped run the cafe, and to all of our wonderful customers over the years for their support.
- » Our external catering contractors for sharing their cheffing skills and passion for healthy fresh food with us for innumerable hours at Realfoods over the years since we began!
- » The amazing alumni of student leaders for helping our Café Coordinator and the cafe in their role as student casuals.
- » The honour roll continues: with thanks to all 27 inspiring individuals who have presented at the cafe's plant-based cooking, nutrition and fitness demos since 2010. Realfoods and the many hundreds of audience members appreciate you sharing your passion for health with us at the café.
- » Our Environment Officer student supervisors for captaining the RMIT Student Union Enviro Department that supports Realfoods.

Realfoods Volunteers

Daily retail operations continued overseen by our Realfoods Café Co-ordinator and supported by a team of over 50 trained volunteers and 5 Student Casuals. Casual are a valuable and highly necessary addition to the running of Realfoods, as their presence makes it possible for the Café Co-ordinator to have some dedicated time set aside to work on administration, events planning, rostering, future planning etc. As well as providing employment opportunity for some RMIT students in a convenient on-campus location. Our external chef contractor transitioned to a RUSU Staff Casual Cook position.

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT students and assist them in increasing their employment prospects, with most students requesting references from Realfoods for their resumes, and many reporting back that they have found employment. All volunteer time is LEAD accredited.

Highlights from the café

Menu Specials: Our busiest trading day each week is usually Burger Tuesday. Burger Tuesday's menu special is: An organic brioche bun, carrot kale and chickpea pattie, mixed greens, relish, pickles and soy mayo with baked seasoned potato wedges on the side.

Volunteers help supplement our menu by making delicious food such as: Carrot Cake Amazeballs! These bundles of joy were made with freshly grated carrot, cashews, brazilnuts, almonds, coconut, dates, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and agave nectar

Social Media News Flash

Realfoods now has an Instagram: [instagram.com/rusu_realfoods](https://www.instagram.com/rusu_realfoods)

Realfoods Special Events

Queen Victoria Market Shopping Tour and Cooking Class (AusAid International Aid Program)

The RMIT Student Services Group approached RUSU Realfoods to run a four hour cooking and nutrition classes for their new intake of IAP students as part of their orientation program in July. This class was funded through RUSU's Sustainable Food Choices grant.

Trupp Cooking School – returning Realfoods volunteers professional cooking and nutrition class

Held at the Trupp Cooking School in Prahran. Walter and Dorota Trupp had our 12 Realfoods cafe volunteers create a feast of over 10 delicious plant-based dishes. Colourful pizza with healthy toppings galore (inc cashew cheese, roast capsicum salsa, dehydrated caramelised red onion and mushroom, pesto, and herbs) was one of the many highlights.

World Week

Realfoods featured an amazing array of different foods from around the world as part of our World Week celebrations. Delicacies from Vietnam, UK and the Middle East were thoroughly enjoyed by our customers.

Cooking demo at the RMIT Health Expo

Our Realfoods Cafe Co-ordinator and our RUSU Student Liaison Officer demonstrated two quick, easy and delicious recipes at RMIT University's Health and Wellbeing Expo: a Super Green Smoothie and Bliss Balls.

This place serves amazing food! Just lovely!

LOVE that you guys specialize in Vegan foods - never change! It is a wonderful move I hope more and more cafes adopt in the future.

Loved your food!!!



REALFOODS VOLUNTEERS

RUSU Queer

The department's members increased by 25% in the first half of the year which was a massive gain, with a further 10% increase in the second half.

We have three new officers coming on board and a lot of time has been spent inducting them into the roles to insure the handover of officers is a simple and effective process.

This quarter we focused on preparation for the coming mental health week events, such as our coming out workshop, our take-over of Casey Plaza for chill and grill chill out space as well as the life skills and goal setting workshop.

During this quarter, as always, we worked on making the space a more comfortable place for the more stigmatised groups in our community, through this process we have now added a definition wall to the city queer space outlining the differences of sexual identity, gender and pronouns which will be added to the other spaces in due course.

The queer department looks forward to its move and the welcoming of the new officers.

Events

This quarter the queer department has been its usual hub of activity. Our weekly events have been increasing in attendance, and are still currently running the following:

Monday – Queer Gaymers Night

A night of board, card and electronic games in a safe environment.

Tuesday – Movie night

Local and international queer films, with popcorn, snacks and drinks.

Workshop Wednesday

We have had Sally from transVIC, along with some feature sexuality workshops.

Thursday – Wine and whine

Alcohol was banned from the student union areas unless security was booked, this turned a \$30–\$50 a week event into something that would cost \$400. This was our most popular event as it opened people up to share stories and socialise. Its discontinuance has had a negative impact on the space in both attendance and in social cohesion.



RUSU Postgraduate

The Postgraduate Department has been working to provide increased opportunities for socializing between postgraduate students who are often isolated. The Postgraduate Department ran a very well attended and well received postgraduate pub quiz night. After the success of speed-friending the department felt that another postgraduate specific social event would help to encourage postgraduate students to spend time together outside of classes. Twelve teams attended the night which involved games as well as quizzes and the department is hoping to replicate the success of this event in the future.

The RUSU Postgraduate Department along with the Monash Postgraduate Association were also involved in the planning and running of the University of Melbourne Graduate Students Association Postgraduate Ball, improving links between postgraduate students from different Victorian Universities. Many RMIT students attended the ball.

The Higher Degree by Research Student Association also ran their first social event of the year, welcoming all members as well as non-member research students to enjoy research discussion and refreshments.

The postgraduate department has focused mainly on social events for both of its HDR and Coursework cohorts, with events aimed at delivering information to postgraduate students as well as allowing them to expand their networks.

In addition to those events, RUSU's HDR student rights officer has been assisting a number of new HDR cases as well as continuing to support research students with complex, and ongoing issues.

The elected Postgraduate Officer has also worked individually with students and provided immediate advice and referrals to postgraduate students at RMIT.

The elected Postgraduate Officer is also working in coordination with other postgraduate representatives across Victoria through the Council of Australian Postgraduate Association (CAPA) to establish a forum to discuss ideas and issues that the postgraduate students face in Victoria.

The forum is set to take place on the 17th October at Study Melbourne (599 Little Bourke Street) from 1pm–4pm. The information session will address a state-wide campaign run by CAPA in regards to transport concession for Postgraduate students. We are hoping to liaise more with Walter Robles from the Monash Postgraduate Association over the issue to see whether a petition needs to be signed by RMIT students.

Events that the elected Postgraduate Officer has been working on in this quarter were:

- » HDRA Welcome to students and information session
- » Postgraduate Ball in conjunction with Monash and Melbourne Postgraduate Associations
- » Postgraduate Pub Quiz

The elected Postgraduate Officer has worked with the Higher Degree by Research Association (HDRA), Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA), Graduate School Association (GSA) this year along with the various RUSU departments in order to bring postgraduate students these events.

The current elected Postgraduate officer is looking to work together with the next Postgraduate Officer elect in order to have a smooth transition and be able to continue the work that was started this year to revive the Postgraduate collective.

RUSU Womyn's

Two students attended NOWSA with funding organised by the Womyn's department.

The Bundoora East Womyn's room opened. A launch event was held and womyn students were advised where the room is and what it's purpose serves.

RUSU International

World Week was held from 11 August to 15 August and was a great success. The event featured an international twist on the weekly BBQs at the suburban campuses, with the city Chill'n'Grill featuring a cultural clubs fair and a World Beer tent in place of the regular members only bar. We also held two film screenings.

Mooncake Festival was held on Monday 8th September. Following the success of last year's event, the scope of this event was greatly increased, with approximately 200 students joining us on a windy night to commemorate the mid-Autumn festival.



MOONCAKE FESTIVAL FUN

RUSU Welfare and Education

We ran a concurrent 'census date' campaign alongside the Rights at Work campaign which culminated in the Trivia Night that we held at Pearson and Murphy's. It kicked off at 5.30pm and went for around 3 hours. Approximately 50 students attended. The main prizes were \$25 and \$50 Coles Myer gift cards.

The Welfare Department also helped co-ordinate RUSU's involvement with the National Union of Student's National Day of Action on August 20 which also went really well and above expectations. It seemed like RMIT had the largest contingent of students and everyone looked great in our RUSU NDA shirts. Probably had close to 100 students attend as part of our contingent. Following the rally we attended a networking event at the Queensbury Hotel in North Melbourne.

July

Members of the SUC attended the National Union of Students Education conference where we were able to learn and share skills and ideas with student union representatives and education departments across the country and continued to help build the campaign against fee hikes and deregulation, in the lead up to the August 20th National day of action.

Ran a joint safe sex campaign with the welfare department 'Sex Education is for your welfare' during second semester o-week during which we handed out nearly 1000 condoms (and safe sex info) to students.

August

In the lead up to the NDA we ran a successful photo campaign on our facebook page to help promote the NDA, with the titles 'I Support the August 20 NDA because....', 'Im against education cuts because' and 'Hey Chris Pyne I study...'

RUSU Sent a large contingent of RMIT students to the august 20 NDA for the National union of students, we provided a free barbecue to encourage students to attend and inform them of the rally, it was a very successful campaign and we ended up being nearly a third of the protest. We also held an after event to talk to students about the campaign and higher education changes.

September

We ran a campaign to raise awareness for the second semester census day, and to inform people the last day they could drop classes without incurring academic and financial penalties. We wrapped the week up with a very successful and fun Trivia event alongside the welfare department, we handed out alot of prizes the key ones being coles myer vouchers. We hope to run more similar events in future.

Upcoming We are currently in the process of organising and upcoming 'Enrol the Vote' Campaign to encourage students to think about their vote in the lead up to the state elections as government has a profound impact on higher education.



Clubs and Societies

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed over \$23,000 of clubs' grants this quarter.

RUSU Clubs Activity

Affiliation

20 Mid-Year year clubs completed their formal 2014/15 annual affiliation requirements during the third quarter. This number includes 6 new clubs and the return of two lapsed clubs. This takes the total number of fully RUSU affiliated clubs to 90.


Brand New Clubs

RUSU would like to welcome the following new clubs who completed affiliation during the third quarter:

- » RMIT Bundoora Islamic Society (Spiritual Club)
- » RMIT Food & Fun Club (Special Interest Club)
- » RMIT Student Interior Design Association (HE Academic Club)
- » RMIT Vietnamese Student Association (Cultural Club)
- » RMIT Urban Planning Society (Academic Club)
- » RMIT Aviation Society (Academic Club)

As of the end of the third quarter, RUSU has affiliated 37 Academic Clubs, 19 Cultural Clubs, 5 Political clubs, 17 Special Interest Clubs and 12 Spiritual clubs.

Another 8 groups of students are currently working with RUSU to affiliate new their clubs before the end of for 2014.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

RMITUWB
rmit@ewb.org.au

engineers without borders australia

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION CLUBS-SOCIETIES

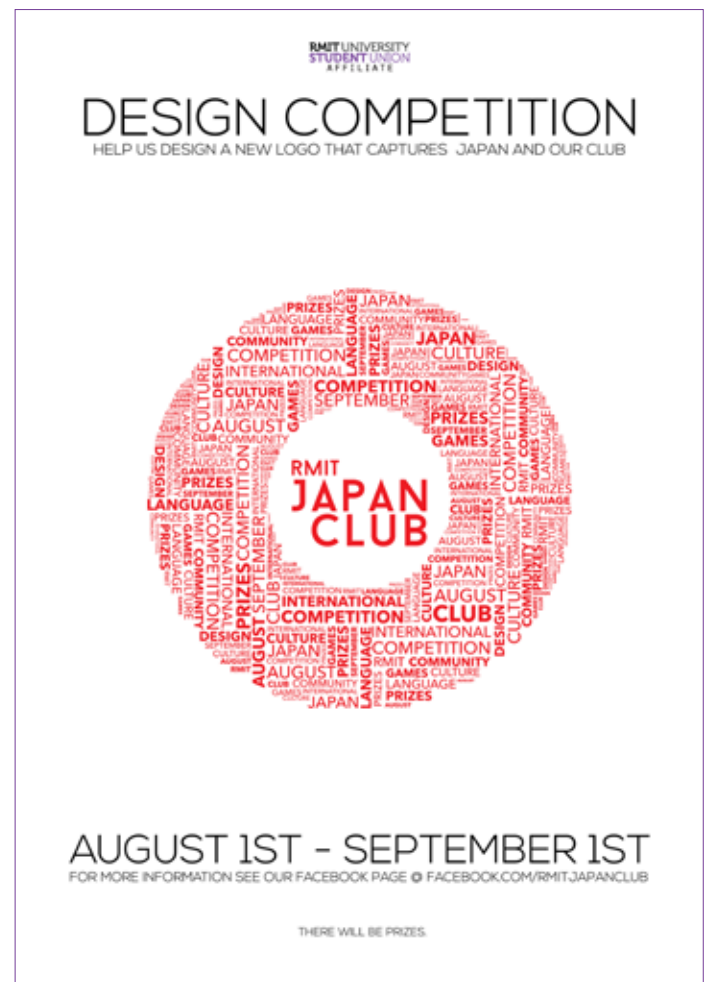
3rd Quarter Club Activities & Events

With the help of Special Funding Grants our Clubs are able to provide their members and the wider student body with something special. In the third quarter of 2014 SFGs were awarded for the following activities:

The RMIT Islamic Society "Grand Iftar". RUSU Special funding provided catering for this event at the RMIT Spiritual Centre. The event enabled a broader cross section of the RMIT student community to experience sharing an evening meal during Ramadan. RUSU thanks RMIT Chaplaincy for their support to the event.

2014 RMIT Pharmacy Association Students Ball. A new student formal Ball to add to the RMIT Calendar, the event was held at the Lincoln of Toorak and was a great success. RUSU congratulates the Society for organising such a great night and hopes the Pharmacy Ball becomes a feature of the student experience for RMIT Pharmacy Students.

Another highlight was the RUSU Clubs Trivia Night. Held in the City Cafeteria as part of RUSU World Week, the theme was "World Trivia". Over 20 teams, some 120 students participated with the majority being RUSU Club Teams. Volunteer event staff were provided by RUSU's Purple People volunteer crew, beer supplied by RUSU Activities and pizza provided through the cafeteria pizza shop. RMIT Engineers Without Borders Club won the first prize of a \$500 club grant and fun was had by all. Special thanks to RMIT Security for supporting this event (the first RUSU evening event in the cafeteria [with beer] for a long time).



DESIGN COMPETITION
HELP US DESIGN A NEW LOGO THAT CAPTURES JAPAN AND OUR CLUB

RMIT JAPAN CLUB

AUGUST 1ST - SEPTEMBER 1ST
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE @ FACEBOOK.COM/RMIT.JAPANCLUB

THERE WILL BE PRIZES

July

- » RMIT Islamic Society Grand Iftar event @RMIT Spiritual Centre
- » RMIT PPIA "Pisang 3" – informal social get together focusing where members sing, play instruments& share food @ member's residence, Melbourne City.
- » RMIT Asian Association Annual Camp @Wye River, Victoria
- » RMIT Buddhist Society – 7 day retreat @ Dharma Centre, Reservoir
- » RMIT Sports Chiropractic Association – professional development workshop "Concussion with Dr Ross McIlveen @ RMIT Bundoora
- » RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship Musical Night @ Docklands
- » RMIT Economics, Finance & Marketing Students Association – Professional Development Series – The Big MaCa (Marketing Career@ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Interior Design & Decoration TAFE (ID&DT) industry event "Take Two" featuring Alumni Guest Speakers@ RMIT Building 10
- » RMIT Games, Manga & Anime Society – weekly meetings on campus during semester– games, competitions, anime movies and theme based fun
- » RMIT Association of Debaters - weekly sessions & training @ RMIT Spiritual Centre
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders weekly free bike repairs service @RUSU Chill N Grill Thursdays Bowen Street
- » RMIT League of Legends monthly on campus competition

August

- » WORLD WEEK – 6 Clubs participated
- » RMIT Japan Club – Tanabata Festival Activities @RMIT City Campus
- » CAINZ RMIT – Entrepreneur Workshop featuring RMIT Alumni Georgia Beattie, founder & CEO of Lupe Wines @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT University Korean Association Welcoming Party @Sool Tong, Melbourne
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association – Independence Day Activity @RMIT Alumni Courtyard
- » CAINZ RMIT – Human Resources Workshop @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Jewish Students Club "Celebrate Israel" event @ RMIT Bowen Street
- » CESA Industry Night @Storey Hall
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT – Grampians Trip @ The Grampians, Victoria
- » RMIT University Society of Hellenes Cake Stall Fundraiser @ RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT Economics, Finance & Marketing Students Association – Professional Development Series Guest Speaker – CEO Don Meij from Dominoes Pizza @RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Electric Racing – Autodesk Inventor Training session @ AMP Building, Melbourne
- » GMAS Social Adventure to Peninsula Hot Springs @ Mornington Peninsula
- » RMIT MAKE (Gold & Silversmithing) Annual Fundraiser Auction @Kenobi Cocktail Bar, Melbourne
- » PERMITSS – club attendance at Masters Planning Australia Forum "City in Crisis" @Deakin Edge, Federation Square
- » RMIT Electric Racing & RMIT Racing AutoCRC presentations @ Holden, Port Melbourne
- » RMIT PPIA – Project O – annual gala event to raise funds for education projects in Indonesia, to highlight the talent of RMIT's Indonesian students and to develop skills and build fellowship amongst club members @ RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Economics, Finance & Marketing Students Association Professional Development Series– Industry Night @ Rialto Towers
- » RMIT Bangladeshi Association Snow Trip @ Mt Buller, Victoria
- » RMIT Singapore Student's Association Great Race @Bowen Street starting point
- » RMIT International Studies Association – Books & Drinks & Canapes Social/Book swap – RMIT Building 1, Courtroom 2



- » RMIT Buddhist Society Integrated Meditation Course (weekly for 4 weeks) @ RMIT Student Union Meeting Room Building 8
- » RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship Day Trip @ Yarra Valley
- » RMIT Computer Science & Info Tech Association – Welcome Back event @Queensberry Hotel North Melbourne.
- » RMIT International Studies Association – Week 6 Social@ John Curtain Hotel, Carlton
- » RMIT CAINZ Entrepreneurship Workshop “Getting Started” @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT PPIA – Second Semester Welcome BBQ @ member’s residence, Melbourne City
- » RMIT International Studies Association, RMIT Electric Racing, @ RMIT Open Day
- » RMIT Electric Racing evening BBQ @A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Singapore Student’s Association Semester 2 Welcome Event @Zen Apartments, Melbourne
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association- RAYA Open House @ Multicultural Arts Hub, Melbourne
- » RMIT CAINZ HR Workshop @RMIT Building 80
- » SEMESTER 2 CLUBS DAY – 60 RUSU CLUBS

September

- » RMIT University Sri Lankan Students Association “Nostalgia” Party @ La Di Da, Melbourne
- » AIESEC RMIT – participation in RMIT Volunteer Event @RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT University Society of Hellenes – Intervarsity Greek Clubs Annual Ball @Victory Room, Etihad Stadium
- » RMIT Jewish Students Club – Rosh Hashanah film @RMIT Kaleide Theatre
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association – Intervarsity Malaysian Clubs’ Annual Ball @The Park,, Albert Park
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders BBQ @ RMIT Figtree Courtyard
- » RMIT Accounting Students Association – professional development event – with Alex O’Malley, CEO of CPA Australia @ Kaleide Theatre
- » RMIT Australian China Youth Association Yum Cha Night @ Dragon Boat Restaurant, Melbourne
- » RMIT Iranian Association “Iranian Party” @Golden Buddha Lounge, Melbourne

- » RMIT Amnesty International Free Film – “Beneath the Blindfold” RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Racing Annual Colouring Competition
- » RMIT Oxfam screening of “growing Cities: (In conjunction with Greening RMIT) @RMIT Building 80
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT Amazing Race @ RMIT Bowen St
- » RMIT International Studies Association – Picnic at Carlton Gardens
- » RMIT Sports Chiropractic Association – Dry Needling Workshop @RMIT Bundoora
- » RMIT Applied Chemistry & Environmental Society BBQ @RMIT Fig Tree Courtyard
- » RMIT Australian China Youth Association – Chinese & English Language Swap BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Masters of Business Association – Gallup Breakfast Briefing & Thought Leaders Program – RMIT Building 13
- » RMIT Electric Racing – BBQ launch of Formula E (car) – RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Ceramics Annual Fundraiser Auction @RMIT Building 4
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association event “Dead or Alive” (Mystery Solving activity) @RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Asian Association BBQ Fundraiser @RMIT Bowen Street
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT @Member’s residence, Melbourne
- » RMIT Islamic Society Sisters Prayer Workshops @ RMIT Spiritual Centre



FUN & GAMES AT RAA CAMP

When:
August 8th 2014

Where:
Kenobi Cocktail Bar
(389 Lonsdale St)

Times:
Viewing time 5:30-6:30,
auction starts promptly 6:30

JEWELLERY AUCTION

RMIT GOLD & SILVERSMITHING 2014

Feedback:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/201408080000000/>

Website:
<http://rmitgold-silversmithing2014.tumblr.com/>

Club Achievement In The Spotlight

A long standing tradition of the RMIT Club formal annual event, two of our engineering based clubs (Chem Eng & Enviro Eng) coordinated their annual formal Ball. In 2014, they coordinated the delivery of the event the Accounting Students Association to crate the 2014 Science, Engineering & Accounting Ball (The SEA Ball). Over 300 RMIT students attended the "007 James Bond" themed formal gala, the largest RMIT student ball of the year. Tickets sold out in less than a week! RUSU Special Funding supported the event with the cost of security and the added fun of a photo booth so students could have professional photos of their evening. The funding ensured the cost to students was manageable. Once again we congratulate this collective effort and the staff at the Sea View Ballroom for their support.

Information To RUSU Clubs

- » Updated "how to" information to guide clubs to book space on campus (including A'Beckett Square).
- » Updated AGM and club annual financial report templates.
- » Guide to on campus events involving alcohol procedure sent to all clubs.

New Developments & Support To RUSU Clubs

- » Club leaders participated in Clubs Regulations review sessions.
- » Clearer guidelines established coordination with RUSU Campus Coordinators for clubs participation in RUSU Chill N Grills and other regular RUSU.
- » A portable mini sound/speaker system is to be purchased for clubs use.



THE WINNING TEAM FROM EWB TRIVIA NIGHT

Hangs In The Hoods

RUSU received a Student Services and Amenities Fee Grant from RMIT University to run a Neighbourhood Volunteer Program. The guise that this has taken is the Hangs in the Hoods (HITH) Program. The third quarter of 2014 saw the HITH program focus on outreach at the Brunswick and Bundoora campuses of RMIT. While students could be studying at anywhere at RMIT and attend, the specific events chosen to appeal to students on the two outlying campuses. Bundoora the events were tailored to students studying medical and physical sciences, teaching or engineering; and at Brunswick events appealed to the range of creative studies (fashion, textiles, design) offered.

The calendar of events was;

- » Brunswick on campus recycled art drop-in workshop on Thursday 31st
- » Bundoora off campus Half day paint ball session on Friday 8th of August
- » Brunswick off campus pottery workshop on Wednesday 20th
- » Bundoora off campus Minigolf and driving range session held Wednesday 24th September
- » Brunswick off campus Chocolate skills workshop held Friday 26th of September

The success of the events is the ability they had to take students from completely different schools, levels of study, campuses and backgrounds and provide an opportunity for them to bond over pottery wheels or behind walls at paintball. Many students participated in an activity that they had never before tried, surprising themselves with skills they did not know they had. A great example of the breaking down of barriers that occurred was during mini golf where an international engineering PHD candidate learnt how to play minigolf from a local student in the final semester of their Bachelors of education.

Over 60 students participated in the program this semester, with the chocolate skills workshop at the Savor Patisserie school being the most popular and successful event, certainly it was the tastiest! The experiences learnt in designing and running the program this semester, will help in better developing activities within RUSU's annual program of events that specialise in engagement between schools and levels of study.



VISAR GRAMPIANS TRIP

Student Media

Catalyst

Catalyst in Q3 finds itself in a far stronger position than the beginning of the year. All of its contributors have worked tirelessly for free which is a success in itself, considering our contributor base has the opportunity to go off and contribute to publications and platforms which can pay.

2014 saw a massive upsurge in participation from RMIT's Design, Photography, and Fine Art faculties, leading to commissions including some of the university's award-winning students engaging with the magazine. This was invaluable in heightening the perception of Catalyst as a publication to submit to. This resulted in each edition receiving more submissions than page space allowed for from issue two until the end of the year. Of course, this was reflected in our numbers online, inclusive of our social media and virtual editions on Issuu.

In that sense, one of the biggest successes that Catalyst has achieved has been that of student patronage. Toward the beginning of the year, the Catalyst brand had largely been tied to a Media and Communications landscape, only moving beyond that audience share when coupled with RUSU initiatives such as orientation weeks and weekly student engagement activities such as Chill & Grill.

Additionally, we were lucky enough to launch the Catalyst podcast, which was produced by Finbar O'Mallon (who is now one of three 2015 editors). The editors would like to make a special mention of his voluntary contribution to Catalyst that brought a litany of musicians, artists, and writers to students extending their skills in journalism and radio production.

Throughout 2014, we made a concerted effort to consolidate and build upon the publication we inherited toward the beginning of the year. In simple terms, this has meant we've established ongoing relationships with a number of RMIT bodies such as RMIT Link Arts & Culture, First Site Gallery, and the RMIT Design Hub Curatorial Office to name but a few. Additionally, we have reached out to local businesses in the CBD and beyond which have brought RMIT student work to a far greater audience.

Looking to 2015, Catalyst is faced with two major setbacks: one being the beleaguered attempts to distribute in Building 80, and the other being the Catalyst website. The latter of course, is a matter for the 2015 eds who are fully aware of the need to move to a more sustainable and accessible website, which was a problem that reared its head throughout 2014. In due course, the 2015 editors will try to move to a more sustainable website that will respond to the necessities of contemporary online publication.



RMITV

Industry Engagement

RMITV - Student Community Television Inc. replicates a professional media production experience which translates to member's success in the industry. Recent successful transitions and achievements include:

- » Andrew Fenaughty - Marngrook Footy Show
- » Brian Tran - h2 Productions
- » Shannon Durkin - Ausstage
- » Michael Lincoln - Vice
- » Peter Macinkovic - Kobe Creations

Some of our other alumni have also been very busy. Tom Ballard, from RMITV's 'Studio A', now hosts 'Reality Check' on ABC which dissects reality television, and provides an in depth understanding into making such a production. Nazeem Hussain, from RMITV's 'Salam Cafe', has been co-hosting a Triple J program. Along with the successful Peter Helliard, RMITV's 'The Loft' host Rove McManus and Waleed Aly are part of the 'The Project'. 'Salam Cafe' panelist Waleed is also a regular contributor to the Sydney Morning Herald and is on ABC Radio National daily.

"Studying Media and Communications at university, RMITV provided a fun, friendly, and educational space that allowed me to further apply and put into practice what I'd been taught. I was given the chance to develop my skills, with opportunities to work on live television productions such as Live on Bowen, several short films and the confidence to work on an independent feature film. It makes me proud to know that fellow members have gone on to work at organisations such as the ABC, Channel 7 and Channel 10."

– Ruth Richards, Bachelor of Media and Communications (Honours)

New Staff Members

The RMITV Training Manager Peter Howard has moved on to further his industry progression. Joe Taylor has accepted this role. He has worked on several RMITV Productions including: 'Live on Bowen', '31 Questions', 'The World from Below', and 'Follies of Youth'. In addition, his crewing roles have been very diverse; including: Camera Operator, Lighting Assistant, Camera Crane Operator/Assistant, Director of Photography, Writer, Producer, and Director. This has lead him to be a respected trainer on 'Follies of Youth' for less experienced crew members.

In addition to this, he has also been one of several RMITV Members to gain an Industry Placement with 1440 Productions for the ABC3 production 'Heart and Soul'. Joe has completed the RMIT University Diploma of Screen and Media and is completing the Diploma of Interactive Digital Media.

As Training Manager Joe will use his industry experiences to organize effective training workshops which will further an RMITV members' progression in the Film and Television industry.

New Student Community Television Board

RMITV welcomes a new a new Board of Directors, consisting of current students and alumni of RMIT University, who were voted in on the 20th of August at our Annual General Meeting. The goals of the coming year are to improve upon student engagement and expanding our RMITV industry network reach. All the Board members are current or alumni of RMIT University.

Training

In addition to on-the-job training during productions, RMITV loves providing learning opportunities from seasoned industry professionals, some of which are returning to RMITV where their careers began. With the support of RUSU, members are provided free training, workshops, and production tours which members use to develop their skills and knowledge.

Film and television industry experts from major television networks visit RMITV to give a comprehensive outlook on launching careers in the industry. Production tours to industry studios and on location productions provide great insight into professional workplace productions for inspiration into media careers.

RMITV student members come from all levels of study (TAFE/Bachelors/Postgraduate), in diverse study areas (media production, engineering, marketing, writing, computers, etc). Networking with aspiring and professional screen practitioners (ABC, SBS, Ten etc) kick-starts careers on on-location and in the studio.

The full slate of RMITV Training will ensure members are given expert hands on advice and experience!

"For my part, being able to meet RMIT students from around globe and show them behind the scenes of the Seven Network and offer any words of wisdom from a practical point of view is a privilege and a pleasure"

– John Deeks, Network Seven

Productions

Flagship Production - Live on Bowen

RMITV's flagship production Live on Bowen can gain students work exposure to a viewership of up to 80K in Melbourne and Geelong alone. With celebrity guests such as Paul Salmon, Ella Hooper, Peter Hitchener, Catriona Rowntree, and Tom Hafey; renowned musical performances, as well as hilarious comedic performances, 'Live on Bowen' stands out in its production values. In its highly anticipated fifth season it is airing in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Queensland, and New Zealand.

"RMIT University students have immense professionalism in their production work with RMITV. The network of emerging professionals who work alongside each other, see one another go on to work in the industry at places like ABC, Network Seven, and NITV. The number of students I have worked with at RMITV that have gone on to the industry is outstanding!"

– Aaron McCarthy, Host Live on Bowen and Channel 10's What's Up Downunder

The Sally-Anne Show

Sally-Anne McCormack is a noted expert, Clinical Psychologist, Media Consultant & former Teacher with a regular segment on Channel 10's 'The Circle' hosts this show. The production features interviews with positive guests stories. The Sally Anne Show Pilot is in post-production.

Dance Quiz

An exciting combination of quiz and dance performance joining to make an entertaining production. Featuring all sorts of dance groups, this production already has great interest from the dance community. Students learnt on location skills in everything from directing, to camera operating, to directing.

In Pit Lane

In Pit Lane is Australia's longest running prime-time motorsport journalism series and RMITV's longest running production, just one of the guests was CEO of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation! This show provides a fantastic opportunity to gain television experience from aspects such as floor managing, to camera operating, to even production management.

A World from Below

With leadership of a Human rights lawyer, from a national law firm, and Chairperson of human rights media organisation Right Now, this production will produce an informative news and analysis show. 'A World from Below' goes beyond the usual power and personalities dominating headlines in the mainstream media, with particular interest in stories from the Asia Pacific region.

Follies of Youth

This web-series is an on-location issues based production created by a current RMIT student. Throughout the course of the series, the characters go on a journey of self discovery tackling serious topics in an informative way.

Tough Times Never Last

In tradition with its 12th season, Tough Times decidedly a strong training production for students learning from ABC employees. Over the eleven seasons, members involved have been fully versed in training for roles from camera, directing, lighting, audio, and producing.

Spines

This on-location production is being produced by an all student team. Having received a Community Broadcasting Foundation Grant the dark drama show is currently filming its first season, with the aim of completing production by mid next year.

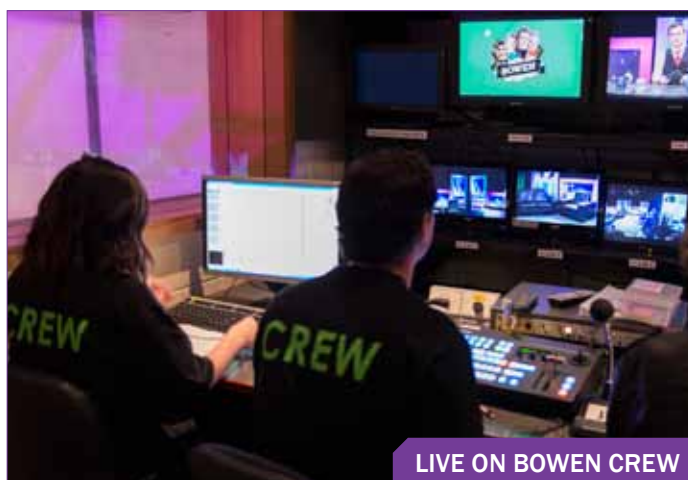
External Productions:

RMIT Law Students' Society

RMIT Law Students' Society conducted several Moots at the Old Magistrate's Court. RMIT University students gained on-location multi-camera production skills in a professional court situation.

Engineers Without Borders

Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB) is a not-for-profit organisation with the goal of systemic change through humanitarian engineering. RMITV members are producing several videos covering an event that was hosted at RMIT University.



LIVE ON BOWEN CREW

Social Media & Publications

- » Facebook – 9,827 likes
- » Twitter – 1,720 followers.

Facebook

Our Facebook presence continues to grow stronger, and serves as our number one social media engagement tool. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs and Societies, and allows students to interact with RUSU via wall posts and photo tagging and to RSVP to events (giving RUSU an idea of numbers beforehand). Post-event photo galleries also continue to be a major drawcard for students on the Facebook platform. Popular events on Facebook this quarter include World Week Party, Winter Wonderland Ball and the Cops and Robbers Party.

Twitter

RUSU currently has over 1,700 Twitter followers, and the platform remains a strong force for continued engagement with students. Providing real time responses to questions and concerns, as well as timely promotion of news, events and offers, Twitter acts as our most immediate tool for interacting with the Student population. Campaign events seem to be popular on the Twitter platform, with Fly the Flag and our National Day of Action events proving to be popular topics.

Website

RUSU's site continues to be a great platform for delivering news, updates and information about RUSU events and activities. Our ever-changing front page advertises all the latest events.

Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter continues to be popular, with over 3,777 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 50 per cent. To date, there have been 14 issues so far in 2014, providing students with the latest news and information on upcoming events and activities.

Promotional Materials

The RUSU Media Department produces a wide variety of publicity materials for RUSU departments, events and clubs. To ensure their suitability over a broad range of printed and digital media, publicity materials are always made in a range of formats. Some highlights this quarter include:

Mid-year O-party

This fun event had a "Big Top Circus" theme, and marketing materials were designed to reflect that, with traditional lettering and bold colours with a vintage feel.

TAFE Trade Fair

A fun poster that was designed to appeal to trade students. The poster was colourful and had a vintage feel. The poster was designed to be in keeping with previous posters for similar events at the TAFE campus, so that students would have some brand recognition of the event.

World Week

This series of events was advertised to students through our "World Week Passport". This project required a World Week logo design to fit across all event marketing materials for the various events throughout the week, including a trivia night, cinema evening, beer tasting event and Chill'n'Grill. The week culminated with the World Week Party, which featured a bright, modern and complicated design that was representative of the global nature of RMIT and RUSU.

Pop-Up Pub 3

This ever-popular event ran for the third time during quarter three. Artwork was the same as the last two events for continuity's sake, but the colour of the posters changes each time so that students are aware the event is different.

Mooncake Festival

The Mooncake Festival is a traditional Chinese celebration of mid-Autumn. Although it is held in springtime in the Southern hemisphere, it is a very popular event at RUSU, and has a particularly strong engagement with overseas students. The artwork for this event featured a beautiful illustration of Chang'e, the Moon goddess of Immortality, who is celebrated at the festival.



Representation and Advocacy

Compass

- » There were 52 student drop-ins at Compass from July–September. Themes of mental health, financial issues and relationships remain strong, with study stress featuring highly as well.
- » 12 new Compass volunteers started their shifts in the Compass Drop In Centre in August and are going really well.
- » Yoga started up again after a mid-semester break with 2 free classes running every week to keep students calm, cool and collected.
- » Compass Project officer took on more responsibility for the RUSU English Language Workshops and Compass volunteers continued with their supportive role in the classes. This semester we offered 4 classes and all were booked out!
- » Compass project Officer assisted with the recruitment process for the RMIT Counseling service to appoint a new psychologist to their team.
- » The Compass data base got up and running this quarter and all drop-ins are now being recorded using that system. This will allow for better analysis of data.
- » RUOK?Day was on the 11th of September. Compass provided volunteers for the university-wide event, as well as a photo booth and prizes to add some fun to the day. The sun was shining this year which helped to add to a very successful campaign.
- » Compass Project Officer attended RMIT-wide Mental Health Week steering committee meetings and liaised with other RUSU departments regarding our collaboration with the week which is held in October.
- » Compass Project Officer and a member of the Student Rights Team had a meeting with RMIT Communications team as well as a Senior Safer Communities Advisor regarding a potential University wide Sexual Harassment Campaign which is very exciting! More on that in the next report.

- » SSAF Steering Committee
- » Orientation & Transition Steering Group
- » Religious Advisory Committee
- » Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC's)
- » Monthly meetings with the Dean of Students
- » Office for Learning and Teaching project on peer review of teaching

The RUSU President also attended functions farewelling the outgoing Vice Chancellor, Margaret Gardner and had the opportunity to meet with the new Vice Chancellor Martin Bean.

Appeal Committees Reps

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings:

- » 8 Student representatives sat on 21 Student Conduct Board and Student Conduct

Appeals hearings

- » 3 Student representatives sat on 14 College Appeal Committee hearings
- » 3 Student representatives sat on 9 University Appeal Committee hearings

RUSU Internal Meetings

Elected student representatives have been supported and resourced to manage RUSU as a student controlled organisation, including:

- » 3 Student Union Council Meetings
- » 10 Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union
- » Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Occupational Health & Safety Committee, the Student Life Group and Student Rights Group Monthly Meetings
- » Elected Student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.

Fly the Flag Campaign

RUSU has been running a campaign to secure the Vice-Chancellor's agreement for the prominent flying of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags on all Melbourne RMIT campuses. This has included a 'Fly The Flag' petition on Facebook, campaigning about this issue at lunch time events and actively lobbying RMIT.



Representation

RUSU Annual Student Union Council Elections

The annual elections for the Student Union Council, Catalyst student newspaper editors and National Union of Students delegates were held from 8–12 September. Polling was held across all campuses.

Vibrant campaigning and slightly expanded polling times lead to the highest voter turn-out in years with 3444 votes cast over the week. The significantly higher than usual turn-out at the Bundoora campuses reflected the increased RUSU presence and activity at Bundoora.

A total of 75 nominations were received with 3 teams; Connect, Stand Up and RULC contesting the elections. The election results are available at www.su.rmit.edu.au/about/elections/

Student Voice

RUSU's elected student representatives provided a student voice on a range of RMIT committees during this quarter. These included but were not limited to:

- » Academic Board
- » Policy and Programs Committee
- » Vocational Education and Training Committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » DSC College Board
- » SEH College Board
- » Business College Board
- » Bundoora Campus Advisory Committee

Student Rights

Policy & Advocacy

In addition to casework RUSU's Student Rights Officers continued to be involved in pro-active consultations and activities aimed at improving the student experience at RMIT. These included:

- » RUSU's Caspar Cumming recorded a video clip for School of Global, Urban and Social Studies to use, informing students about RUSU and special consideration requirements.
- » Provided a submission to RMIT's proposed timetable policy and procedure, to improve student awareness of how timetabling is determined and ensure students with timetabling needs are accommodated.
- » Consulted Vocational Education staff about issues impacting educational quality for students.
- » Consulted with the Academic Registrar Group's Communications unit about improving information provided to students, particularly from an equity perspective, around things including offers and enrolments and special consideration.

RMIT Prayer Rooms

RUSU representatives have been liaising with students in relation to the relocation of the prayer spaces and access to prayer rooms.

Greater Food Choices on Campus

RUSU supports an inclusive campus culture and has been lobbying RMIT for a greater variety of vegan, halal and kosher food options on campus.

Show Cause Deadlines

RMIT's 'Show Cause' deadline on 1 August, Appeals Against Assessments in August and Exclusions cases in September have kept the RUSU's Student Rights Service busier than ever. The coordinated RMIT-wide deadline for show cause submissions created a massive influx of student rights cases in July and early August. In a 4 weeks period (mid-July to early August) Student Rights Officers had over 400 student rights appointments, with a further 57 students attending student rights group sessions to prepare for their cases.

Feedback from Students

"Thank you so much for your help and support. Without your help I don't think I could have completed my thesis."

"I finally got my SAC this afternoon. I could not get my SAC processed this quickly without your help. With a lot of help from you, I got my SAC and eventually submitted all the documents to CPA and the immigration department."

"Thank you - much appreciated! I feel a lot better now knowing that we have followed the right procedure and the right people are aware of what has happened and hopefully it will make things better for future students as well as the rest of my time at RMIT."

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES:

1 JULY–30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	2
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	8
Complaint	
School Level	24
University Level	11
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	4
Admission Issue	1
Appeal Against Assessment	39
Assessment Issues (other)	9
At Risk	2
Bullying	1
Disability	6
Enrolment Issue	9
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	3
Exclusion	45
Fees Issue	19
Leave of Absence (LOA)	2
Mental Health Issue	8
Other issues	7
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	5
Remission of Debt	7
Show Cause	46
Special Consideration	52
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass by Compensation)	1
TOTAL	311

STUDENT RIGHTS CASES: 1 JULY–30 SEPTEMBER 2014

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Upheld	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	1
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	2
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	5
Deferred Exam	6
Extension of Time	2
Future Assessment Arrangement	1
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	1
Referral – External	
Other Services	3
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	4
Appeal Upheld	1
Special Consideration Granted Without a Hearing	2
Complaint Outcome	
School Level Complaint Dismissed	2
School Level Complaint Resolved	3
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment Achieved	2
Referral Internal	
Compass	2
Counselling Service	6
Disability Liaison Unit	2
Housing Services	2
International Student Services	1
Legal Service	1
Student Wellbeing	2
Study and Learning Centre	3
Appeal Against RPL/RPL Issue College Appeals Committee	
RPL Achieved	1
RPL Appeal Upheld	1
RPL Granted Before the Hearing	2
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	1
Contacted Course Coordinator	5
Contacted Head of School	8
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contacted Program Manager	3

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	39
Other Outcomes	26
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	22
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Asked to Resubmit the Assessment	4
Student Reprimanded	4
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of any Assessment	5
Leave Of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	1
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	2
Fail Recorded in an Assessment Session	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	4
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Not Resolved	1
Issue Resolved	4
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	2
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	13
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	1
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Found Not Guilty	2
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause Approved by PAB	35
Show Cause Rejected by PAB	5
Email Advice Given	34
Phone Advice Given	39
TOTAL	327
Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter	247
Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter	209

RUSU Governance, Administration and Services

RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration, and Finance staff. Some key projects during this period include:

- » Funds and projects administered in accordance with the RUSU 2014 Funding Agreement.
- » 2015 RUSU Base funding submission presented to the Dean of Students.
- » Meetings and site visits with RMIT regarding the numerous aspects of the NAS project including impact on students, RUSU offices, RMITV and Realfoods Café.
- » 2014 Annual Student Union elections held across all campuses in accordance with the RUSU Constitution. External Returning Officers, engaged through Election.
- » Desk and RUSU Administration Coordinator and Student Liaison Officers acting as Assistant Returning Officers.
- » OH&S Committee meetings and ongoing OH&S compliance requirements.
- » Annual Tag & Testing of RUSU Equipment.
- » Old RUSU computers decommissioned and provided for students through the furniture cage.
- » RUSU Fount Counters open at Swanston Street, Carlton, Brunswick, Bundoora West and Bundoora East.
- » Manual Handling training provided for relevant RUSU staff.
- » RUSU staff provided professional development training in Customer Service Across Cultures.

Finance Overview

RUSU SSAF Funding 2014

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2014 is made up of the following:

- » \$2,085,007 (Base grant) and
- » \$424,000 (SSAF Committee Grants)
- » **2014 TOTAL GRANT – \$2,509,007**
- » **2014 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE – \$ 1,881,755**

In order to meet legislative requirements, the RUSU financial reports match expenses with “allowable items”. Please note that Table 1 below is based on SSAF Allowable items and expenditure of SSAF funds on these areas. It categorises the SSAF expenditure from the Base grant and SSAF Committee projects into the allowable items. This table does not include activities and services funded by non SSAF expenditure.

RUSU also receives some funding from other sources. While some of the activities funded through these sources are reported on in the narrative section of this quarterly report, due to the overlap with other representative, advocacy, administrative, governance and publicity functions of the Student Union, expenditure on these projects is not included in the expenditure reported below as it is not SSAF funded.

Table 2 reports on the specific grants approved by the SSAF Committee.

RUSU is committed to continuous improvement of our financial systems to ensure we both work within our budget provisions as agreed through our funding agreement and to satisfactorily achieve our annual audit of statutory accounts by a registered company auditor under the Corporations Act.

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 30 September 2014

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation specific events • Re-Orientation Events 	\$35,264
Caring for children of students	Nil	\$0
Providing legal services to students	Nil	\$0
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education • Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing • All Compass Centre, programs and staff • Healthy Eating SSAF Grant 	\$174,666
Helping students secure accommodation	Nil	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	Nil	\$0
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from International student department and International Support SSAF Grant 	\$48,437
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	Nil	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	Nil	\$0
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development • Volunteer Program + program staffing • Student Engagement Officer • Student Union Council Elections • Secretariat Honorariums • All of SUC campaigns 	\$255,347
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website • RMIT Flagship Program • Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) • Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$125,328

TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF Grant expenditure on Allowable Items 1 January – 30 September 2014 (cont.)

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus specific events and marketing (all campuses) • RUSU Realfoods 	\$103,306
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions • Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$136,413
Supporting an artistic activity by students	–	\$0
Supporting debating by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting. 	\$0
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies • Clubs and Societies Staff and other support 	\$165,120
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance • 5 x Information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East and SSAF Project) 	\$476,407
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Rights Officers • Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees 	\$393,577
	YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$1,915,847
	YTD SSAF Grants Received	\$1,881,755

TABLE 2: 2014 SSAF Committee Grant Reports 1 January – 30 September 2014

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$149,000	\$109,659	Expenditure on target for project.
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$105,000	\$81,591	May run slightly overbudget.
RUSU Flagship Production (Live On Bowen) and RMITV training program	\$35,000	\$21,465	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$25,000	\$21,461	Expenditure on target for project.
RUSU Bundoora East rejuvenation – phase 2	\$30,000	\$67,201	Expenditure on target for project. RMIT agreed to roll over the \$47,633 remaining from the 2013 grant due to delays in the building works occurring from RMIT's end.
RUSU Re-Orientation Week 2014	\$40,000	\$35,264	Under budget due to income from the Re-O Night party.
RUSU Healthy Eating program, including sustainability awareness	\$40,000	\$25,518	Expenditure on target for project.
TOTAL	\$424,000	\$362,114	

RUTSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION